



KENTUCKY BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

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NOTICE: SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING COURSE

TO: All Social Work Licensees
FR: Florence Huffman, Executive Director
DT: February 18, 2015

SOCIAL WORKERS must complete the first training by JULY 2016

As you may be aware, the Kentucky Legislature enacted a new law applicable to social workers (and other qualified mental health and healthcare professionals, including SOCIAL WORKERS), which mandates completion of a training program in suicide assessment, treatment, and management.

Unless otherwise required by your place of employment or the demands of your practice, social workers only need to complete the first training by **JULY 2016** – it is not required for social work licensure prior to that deadline.

The Kentucky Board of Social Work will be writing and implementing an administrative regulation in the near future. In the meantime, the board is aware that there are a number of programs being developed and presented by the various accredited Colleges of Social Work – these programs do not require prior KBSW review or approval according to our continuing education regulation, 201 KAR 23:075

Please call us at 502-564-2350 or email me at florence.huffman@ky.gov if we can be of any assistance to you.

FULL TEXT OF KRS 210.366

210.366 Training program in suicide assessment, treatment, and management -- Administrative regulations.

(1) As used in this section:

- (a) "Board" means the **Kentucky Board of Social Work**, Kentucky Board of Licensure of Marriage and Family Therapists, Kentucky Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, Kentucky Board of Licensure for Pastoral Counselors, Kentucky Board of Certification of Alcohol and Drug Counselors, Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology, and Kentucky Board of Licensure for Occupational Therapy; and
- (b) "Training program in suicide assessment, treatment, and management" means an empirically supported training program approved by the boards that contains suicide assessment including screening and referral, suicide treatment, and suicide management. A board may approve a training program that excludes one (1) of the elements if the element is inappropriate for the profession in question or inappropriate for the level of licensure or credentialing of that profession based on the profession's scope of practice. A training program that includes only screening and referral elements shall be at least three (3) hours in length. All other training programs approved under this section shall be at least six (6) hours in length.

(2) Beginning January 1, 2015, each of the following professionals certified or licensed under KRS Title XXVI shall, **at least once every six (6) years**, complete a training program in suicide assessment, treatment, and management that is approved, in administrative regulations, by the respective boards:

- (a) **A social worker**, marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, or pastoral counselor certified or licensed under KRS Chapter 335;
- (b) An alcohol and drug counselor certified under KRS Chapter 309;
- (c) A psychologist licensed or certified under KRS Chapter 319; and
- (d) An occupational therapist licensed under KRS Chapter 319A.

(3) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, a professional listed in subsection (2) of this section must complete the first training required by this section by July 2016.

[NOTE FROM KBSW: THE FOLLOWING SECTION GRANTS A **WAIVER / EXEMPTION IF THE PROFESSIONAL CAN SHOW COMPLETION OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM IN SUICIDE ASSESSMENT, TREATMENT, AND MANAGEMENT NO MORE THAN SIX YEARS PRIOR TO INITIAL LICENSURE.]**

(b) A professional listed in subsection (2) of this section applying for initial licensure or certification on or after June 25, 2013, may delay completion of the first training required by this section for six (6) years after initial licensure or certification if he or she can demonstrate successful completion of a six (6) hour academic training program in suicide assessment, treatment, and management that:

1. Was completed no more than six (6) years prior to the application for initial licensure or certification; and
2. Is listed on the best practices registry of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center.

(4) The hours spent completing a training program in suicide assessment, treatment, and management under this section count toward meeting any applicable continuing education requirements for each profession.

(5) A board may, by administrative regulation, specify minimum training and experience that is sufficient to exempt a professional from the training requirements in subsection (2) of this section.

(6) (a) The cabinet shall develop a model list of training programs in suicide assessment, treatment, and management.

(b) When developing the model list, the cabinet shall:

1. Consider suicide assessment, treatment, and management training programs of at least six (6) hours in length listed on the best practices registry of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center; and
2. Consult with the boards, public and private institutions of higher education, experts in suicide assessment, treatment, and management, and affected professional associations.

(c) The cabinet shall report the model list of training programs to the Interim Joint Committee on Health and Welfare no later than December 15, 2014.

(7) Nothing in this section may be interpreted to expand or limit the scope of practice of any profession regulated under KRS Title XXVI.

(8) The cabinet and the boards affected by this section shall adopt any administrative regulations necessary to implement this section.

Effective: July 15, 2014